

democrat and personally knew the likes of LBJ, Speaker Sam Rayburn, Muhammad Ali, baseball great Mickey Mantle, war veteran Audie Murphy, Senator John F. Kennedy, Ted Williams, President Ronald Reagan, Texas Governor John Connally, Texas Governor William "Bill" P. Clements, Jr., Texas Governor Ann Richards, Texas Governor Rick Perry, Curtis Cokes, General Tommy Franks, Lieutenant General Tom Stafford, astronauts Gene Cernan, Buzz Aldrin, Neal Armstrong, U.S. Representative Ray Roberts, U.S. Senator Phil Gramm, famous aviator Claire Chennault, President George H.W. Bush, President George W. Bush, U.S. Senator JOHN CORNYN, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen, T. Boone Pickens, H. Ross Perot, Red Adair, Bo Derek, Chuck Norris, Ted Williams, Tom Hanks and The Ink Spots. He works well with both Republicans and Democrats, but he "got religion," in 2004, and became a Republican. Never forgetting his Democrat roots, he commented, "Being a Democrat was more fun."

RALPH HALL always has a story and a new, but often used joke. He runs 2 miles a day and certainly symbolizes the best of the Greatest Generation. RALPH HALL's service and leadership has shaped him into an important role model that members of the Texas Delegation in Congress, on both sides of the aisle admire. His dedication and love for his public service illustrates how success is attainable when mixed with hard work and determination, along with a love of America and of course, Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, one word that will always be synonymous with RALPH HALL is 'gentleman.'

I met Congressman HALL when I was first elected to Congress in 1993 and was appointed to the Science, Space and Technology Committee where he served as Chairman at the time when he was a Democrat. As Chairman of the Committee, his bipartisan work there was marked by promotion of science, technology, engineering and math education; advancing American competitiveness through research and development of new technologies; and maintaining our country's preeminence in space.

I've never known Congressman HALL as a person who rests. His work as a policymaker will endure, and he is a natural politician with a knack for coalescing conflicting viewpoints.

Congressman HALL is also one of the kindest Members in Congress. His geniality helps make this institution a better place for the American people. And no matter who you are—astronaut, president, or next door neighbor—Congressman HALL is always one to put a generous hand forward.

I wish Congressman HALL every blessing together with his three sons and five beautiful grandchildren. I'm grateful to know him, to have served with him, and to call him my friend.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we honor the distinguished service of our friend and colleague, RALPH HALL of Texas.

If there were a congressional "Hall of Fame," Representative HALL would be a first ballot inductee. His many years of service were highlighted at the end of 2012 when he became the most senior member of Congress to ever cast a vote in the House of Representatives.

RALPH's career in the House of Representatives and his commitment to his constituents in the 4th District of Texas spans 34 years. But his contributions to our country began before that.

Since he was 19 years old, RALPH has led a life of service. As a lieutenant in the Navy during World War Two, he served as a pilot, and since then has never hesitated to accomplish a mission.

That mentality has made him a distinguished member of Congress, and a very effective Chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Throughout his tenure, RALPH has been a consistent advocate for scientific research and development.

As Science Committee Chairman he worked to ensure that business owners are not burdened by excessive EPA regulations.

RALPH has fostered programs to better understand extreme weather and to ensure that citizens are prepared for natural disasters.

He has worked to advance science education and programs that promote technological breakthroughs to benefit future generations.

And throughout his time in Congress, RALPH HALL has served this institution with style and humor.

RALPH HALL has always said, "I'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington." RALPH—you actually have achieved that rare combination of both. Thank you for your service to Congress, to the great state of Texas and to our country.

RALPH has asked me to pass along his comment, "I am especially partial to my friends in the Texas Delegation who represent their districts so well and whose integrity and hard work have benefited not only our State but also our Nation. I thank you for your friendship and countless acts of kindness."

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to thank our colleague, and my friend, RALPH HALL for his years of service in the House of Representatives. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. HALL for many years in the Science Committee, and I have always appreciated the way he has gone about his job. Mr. HALL has always been a public servant in the truest sense of the word. His lifetime of service began with his service in the navy as an aircraft carrier pilot during World War II. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mr. HALL and other members of the greatest generation for fighting to preserve the freedoms that we all hold dear. Once he left the armed services, Mr. HALL's service continued in the Texas state legislature before moving on to DC to begin his distinguished service in the House beginning in 1981.

As Science Committee Ranking Member and Chairman, Mr. HALL did a great deal to keep up the proud history we have in this country of support for science and space exploration. During Mr. HALL's tenure, the Committee passed the original America COMPETES Act in 2007 as well as its reauthorization in 2010. These landmark bills helped increase funding for science and education to help the US keep pace in an increasingly competitive world. Though we have not always agreed on every issue, I know that Mr. HALL cares greatly about the US scientific enterprise and the economic benefits it has provided our nation over the years. Those of us that know Mr. HALL know him best for his stories and the

personable nature that he did business with. He will most certainly be missed in Congress.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, RALPH HALL has been a fervent and steadfast presence in Congress for almost thirty-five years.

Before coming to Washington, he served as a county judge and as a member of the Texas State Senate.

Before that he flew Hellcat fighters for the Navy during World War II; married the love of his life, Mary Ellen; and tells the story of working at his local pharmacy as a kid and selling a carton of cigarettes and a couple of bottles of Coke to the outlaws Bonnie and Clyde.

Congressman HALL has led an extraordinary and dynamic life, and he readily brought that energy to his work in Congress.

Serving with him on the Science Committee, and especially on the Space Subcommittee, has been a true honor. Congressman HALL has a deep respect for the basic science work done by NASA, especially that done aboard the International Space Station.

He has also been a firm champion of America's space exploration program—and it was in fact he who added the word "Space" back into the name of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology during the 112th Congress. As he has said many times, human space exploration is one of the best methods we have for engaging and inspiring the next generation.

I join my colleagues today in honoring RALPH HALL—who has inspired us all with his dedication to public service and to our nation.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of our Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, 21 years ago, January of 1993, I was sworn into the 103rd Congress as the 28th Representative of the historic First Congressional District of Illinois.

One of the first Members of Congress to welcome me with the most heartwarming words and smile was none other than my friend from the great State of Michigan, Congressman JOHN DAVID DINGELL, JR.

JOHN DINGELL has trained me, worked with me, and inspired me far more than most other Members of this House. I can't think of any other Member in Congress who has spent the kind of time and energy teaching me the ropes than JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN DINGELL, Mr. Speaker, will go down in U.S. history as being one of the most powerful House committee chairmen of all times. That is why, Mr.

Speaker, around Washington, D.C., throughout the Nation, and throughout this Congress, he was and will continue to be respectfully known as the “lion of the House.”

While some may ascribe that honor to his forceful personality, Mr. Speaker, in my experience with JOHN and watching him operate as chairman, he used a scalpel more than a sledgehammer to score his legislative wins and to gather up and earn the respect of all the Members not only of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, but the Members of this House on both sides of the aisle.

Many will say that the secret to JOHN's success has been his unrivaled mastery of parliamentary procedures and institutional memory. I would agree that he has superb parliamentary knowledge of the parliamentary procedures, and there is a remarkable aspect to his institutional memory.

But what made JOHN DINGELL successful and a genuine American treasure—he was just last week awarded the highest civilian award that this Nation bestows upon an individual, the Presidential Medal of Freedom—is that he knows how to deal with people. He knows how to work with people.

JOHN doesn't go around talking about all his great exploits. I recall a few years back, Mr. Speaker, I was traveling to Michigan to campaign for JOHN. He was in a primary challenge. Little did I know that the man who I was championing had at one time been scorned in his own district because he voted for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I didn't know that about JOHN DINGELL. I didn't know that, but my respect for him mushroomed to the top even more than it had been before because he was a man who when he believed in something has the commitment and courage to stand behind his beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, JOHN means what he says, and he says what he means. Nobody can say anything different about JOHN DAVID DINGELL.

JOHN DINGELL, Chairman DINGELL, my friend, I wish you continued health. I wish you continued strength and prosperity as you leave this House of Representatives, this House of the people, and return to your family and friends and constituents in Michigan.

May God bless you and keep you. I will forever hold you dear. I will forever look toward your example in terms of committee work and work on this floor. I want to thank you, JOHN DINGELL, for all that you have contributed to this Nation, to your constituents, to this House, and certainly to the Committee of Energy and Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Texas, the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON.

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Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Thank you very much, Mr.

RUSH. I appreciate the fact that you are holding this hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise for the honor of the work of Mr. JOHN DINGELL who will retire this year as the longest-serving Member, with 59 years as a Michigan Representative. Since 1955, Congressman DINGELL has represented the southeastern Michigan area and served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and twice as chairman.

When I learned that Mr. DINGELL would retire at the end of this term, I was saddened to know that we would lose such a fine leader and advocate for social democracy; however, we must continue Mr. DINGELL's fight for all Americans.

He is well-known for his battles on behalf of civil rights, clean water, Medicare, and workers' rights. He is also the author of many pieces of legislation that enhance the protection of public health such as the Affordable Care Act.

While he expanded public health and advocated for environmental conservationism, Mr. DINGELL also combated corruption and waste via his chairmanship of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. He exerted strong, unwavering oversight of the executive branch through his committee, and his successes in Congress earned him the 2014 Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Through his career in Congress, he was willing and able to work across the aisle to accomplish tasks that made Americans' lives better. A true advocate for the people, Mr. DINGELL dedicated his life to ensuring that public health safety of the American people was always in the forefront. Whether authoring the Clean Air Act or the Patients' Bill of Rights, Mr. DINGELL was unwavering in his questions to protect Americans.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the accomplishments of Congressman JOHN DINGELL and join me in congratulating him on an outstanding career in public service.

Mr. RUSH. I thank the gentlelady.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member on the Judiciary Committee, the one who will ascend to the dean of the House, the legendary civil rights icon.

Mr. CONYERS. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker and members of the committee, I rise today to honor a true statesman in every sense of the word, the dean of the House, chairman emeritus of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and a champion of the people of Metropolitan Detroit, the Honorable Congressman JOHN DINGELL.

Now, I have had the distinct honor of working with Congressman DINGELL for the last six decades, first as a member of his congressional staff and then as his colleague in the Michigan delegation. Over these six decades, we have fought together successfully for Medicare, for clean air and water, for workers' rights, and most importantly, for civil rights.

Over these decades, he has succeeded at truly Herculean tasks, including passing the Endangered Species Act, the 1990 Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Affordable Care Act, the Patients' Bill of Rights, and the Children's Health Insurance Program, among many others.

Congressman DINGELL is a masterful legislator but, most importantly, a man of conscience. As he passes the torch on to another extraordinary leader, Congresswoman-elect Debbie Dingell, I am so proud to salute his legacy of compassion and service.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Texas (Mr. BARTON), the former chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. BARTON. I want to thank the Congressman from Chicago, the Reverend BOBBY RUSH, for recognizing me.

Mr. Speaker, we always in Texas refer to the former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn who served for 48 years as “Man of the House.” In fact, there have been books written about Rayburn with that title, “The Man of the House.” I am a six-generation native Texan, so I certainly would be considered to be somewhat Texas-centric.

In all honesty, I would have to say that the ultimate and true man of the House is the Honorable JOHN DINGELL of Michigan. His father served before him, elected, I believe, while President Roosevelt was President of the United States, and JOHN DINGELL literally grew up in the House of Representatives.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Roosevelt, I believe, the very next day, December 8, addressed a joint session of Congress in his famous Day of Infamy speech. JOHN DINGELL was on the floor to hear that speech in person, not as a Congressman, but as the son of a Congressman.

He got elected to replace his father when his father passed away in 1955 and, as has been mentioned, has served longer than any other Member of Congress in the history of this Nation. If you count not only his service in Congress, but the time he spent as a child when his father was in Congress, he has literally been in the House for almost a third of its existence as an institution.

I am not sure how many Members he has served with, but it is in the neighborhood of 2,500 Members that he has personally served with.

When I got elected to Congress in 1984, I did not get on the Energy and Commerce Committee in my freshman year, but I did my sophomore year in 1986. JOHN DINGELL was then chairman and was chairman until the Republicans took the majority in the election in 1994, so I served with Chairman Dingell for my first 10 years in the Congress.

He was a chairman in every sense of the word. The legislation that he helped craft during his chairmanship is some of the most important in the history of this Congress. Certainly, things

that he would be most proud of would be the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, some of the health care legislation, and some of the telecommunications legislation.

Those are laws that were passed under his chairmanship and are still the basic law in their field in this country.

When I became chairman in 2003, he was the ranking Democrat on the committee. He helped me, sometimes in public, sometimes behind the scenes. Even when he didn't agree with the legislation that the Republican majority was pushing, he was always thoughtful and giving me tips on procedure and process and sometimes policy.

When we passed a bill to move television from analog to digital, I wanted to put a date certain very quickly. With his counsel, he convinced me that we should draw that out, and he also said: "The final date of the transition shouldn't be until after the Super Bowl; just in case there is a problem, people will get to watch the Super Bowl and won't be cussing you and the Congress for moving from analog to digital." He was absolutely right on that.

With Chairman UPTON's leadership, who is on the floor this evening—several years ago, I went to Chairman UPTON and suggested that we ask the Speaker to name the Energy and Commerce main committee room on the first floor of the Rayburn Building, 2123, the JOHN DINGELL Room. Chairman UPTON thought that was a great idea. He recommended it to the Speaker, and that now is the John Dingell Room.

I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker, but I do want to say that we are truly losing one of the giants of the Congress when JOHN DINGELL retires at the end of this session.

He is still going to be here. His wife, Debbie, has been elected to succeed him, so hopefully, we will still see him in the Congress, but I really have difficulty imagining a Congress that JOHN DINGELL is not a member of. He will be missed. We honor him, and I consider it a personal privilege that he calls me a friend.

I thank the gentleman from Chicago for yielding me some time.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I want to just remind people that we have a growing list of speakers.

Mr. UPTON. Thank you, Mr. RUSH. I will try to be brief.

I do want to put a statement in the RECORD from Mr. CAMP who was here a little while ago and wanted to speak.

I just want to say, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. Chairman is what we still call him. I have known him since 1977 when I came here as a staffer, and I have got to say that he treated me just as well as a staffer, which was great, as he has as a colleague and now, for me, as chairman of the committee.

We are the best of friends. We really are. There have been a lot of different issues that we have worked on, and he took me under his wing a lot of years ago, and we discovered too that, for me, it is better to have DINGELL on our side than to be on a different side, but when he is on the other side, he is certainly a powerful adversary.

Our delegation in Michigan is pretty close. We are involved in so many different issues, jobs and the economy, particularly the auto sector is one of the things where JOHN DINGELL has really led and cared about.

As we know, he is the longest-serving Member of Congress ever in the history of this institution. He is cared about so well.

I can remember bringing over CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS from years past and, as JOE BARTON said, he served with some 2,500 Members here, actually going through the vote Journal on some of the big issues of the day, the Voting Rights Act and others, and actually talking about some of the Members and what they said on that particular day.

He was a fair chairman, always went by the rules, had a command of the issues, a brilliant staff, and their loyalty still exists today. Of course, the light of his life, the lovely Deborah, a great person who we know is going to be taking his place, serving those 700,000 people from southeast Michigan in the next Congress.

If you look back at his life, he has served his country from the first day through today, a World War II vet, something that he has always been so, so proud of, chairman of the most powerful committee here in the House.

In addition to all that, he has been a friend, a father, a husband, and a colleague whose word has always been his bond and who has defined the very utmost of what we would like this place to be. He is a great American.

Thank you, JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. RUSH. I want to thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the distinguished gentleman, Mr. RUSH, and I thank Mr. PALLONE for convening this Special Order and all of the members of this committee and Members of this House of Representatives that have come on the floor today with joy.

It is often said, "It is not how long you serve, but how you serve." For JOHN DINGELL, that is not mutually exclusive. He served six decades, and he served it greatly and grandly and with distinction.

I am reminded of a description of him as a 6-foot-3-inch distinguished gentleman, towering over witnesses, but having the biggest of hearts, coming from the best of legacies in his father that served 22 years, reminded of his commitment to the Clean Air Act, safe drinking water, the endangered species.

JOHN has always reminded us new ones, relatively speaking, that his

greatest love was to provide affordable health care to every American.

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Decades after his father introduced such a bill, he never gave up.

So I stand here today to thank you, JOHN DINGELL, for the Affordable Care Act. They call it many things—"ObamaCare"—but I am getting ready to call it "DingellCare" because you worked without ceasing. Thank you for your service to this Nation, where you stood in the shadows of World War II and stood as an American, willing to serve.

I am grateful for the service that he has given and for his long years of service as the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Let me conclude by saying that there is much more that all of us can say, but you can see so many Members have come to the floor. On a personal note, there are two items that I want to acknowledge:

Thank you, JOHN DINGELL, for recognizing my voting rights—my opportunity to vote as an African American—and those of the thousands of millions that you helped in 1965. I will never forget your willingness to sacrifice personal political stature to do what is right. I also want to thank you so very much for being the kind of person on the floor of the House who asked about every Member. For every Member who came to your attention, you asked them how they were doing.

I conclude with these remarks, his final words about the Civil Rights Act. He said that he was glad to vote for a bill that solved a problem that was eating at the soul and heart and liver of the country.

Only JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN DINGELL. I salute you as a great and a grand American.

Thank you, Debbie Dingell. I will continue to look forward to your service.

JOHN, we are going to look forward to your service and, of course, to your long life here in this great country and in your great State of Michigan. Again, JOHN, thank you so very much.

Serving nearly six decades in the House of Representatives, JOHN DINGELL has earned the distinction of being both the longest-serving Member of Congress in U.S. history and one of the most influential legislators of all time.

After serving his country in the Army during World War II, JOHN was first elected to Congress in 1955—representing the people of southeastern Michigan in a seat previously held by his father.

In Washington, JOHN risked his seat to support the Civil Rights Act of 1964, fought to pass Medicare in 1965, and penned legislation like the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act that have kept millions of Americans healthy and preserved our natural beauty for future generations.

But of all JOHN's accomplishments, perhaps the most remarkable has been his tireless fight to guarantee quality, affordable health care for every American.

Decades after his father first introduced a bill for comprehensive health care reform, JOHN continued to introduce health care legislation at the beginning of every session.

And as an original author of the Affordable Care Act, he helped give millions of families the peace of mind of knowing they won't lose everything if they get sick.

One of the proudest moments in my career in the House was watching the distinguished gentleman from Michigan preside over debate on the rule for the Affordable Care Act.

Today, the people of Michigan—and the American people—are better off because of JOHN DINGELL's service to this country.

Ending a career that is among the most singular in congressional history, U.S. Rep. JOHN DINGELL—who helped pass, if not author, many of the most iconic legislative achievements of the last 60 years is, concluding a term of service to metro Detroit, Michigan and the nation unprecedented in its length and remarkable in its scope.

JOHN DINGELL's length of service stretches back to before Alaska and Hawaii were states and his father, John Sr., sat in the seat for 22 years before him.

Last June, he became the longest-serving member of Congress.

JOHN DAVID DINGELL, Jr., was 29 years old when the Detroit native was elected in a 1955 special election to serve out the remainder of his late father's term.

Since then, he has cast tens of thousands of votes and played a role in everything from the Civil Rights Act and Medicare to the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act and, in 2010, the Affordable Care Act.

Known throughout Washington as Big JOHN—at 6-foot-3, he literally towered over many witnesses before his House Energy and Commerce Committee—JOHN DINGELL cut a distinctive figure in the Capitol.

A progressive when it came to workers' rights, he is also a staunch defender of Michigan industries, including its automakers, and at times ran afoul of environmentalists.

He counts as among his most important accomplishments the creation of the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge and the River Raisin Battlefield.

In 1964, he voted for the Civil Rights Act. He called that vote the most important one he ever took—one that “solved a problem that was eating at the soul and heart and liver of this country.”

JOHN DINGELL vastly expanded the scope of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's purview during his first stint as chairman—which lasted 1981–95—to the point where it was said it handled four out of every 10 bills in the House.

By example, he had a photo of the Earth from space behind his desk and when anyone asked him to define the committee's jurisdiction, he would point to it.

House Speaker Tip O'Neill used to say “All politics is local”, but in JOHN DINGELL's case, all politics has always been personal. It is only when you have a personal relationship with someone that you establish trust, even when you're on opposite sides of an issue.

Through 60 years of public service, JOHN fought for what he believed in, and got things done through relationships and his deep respect for others.

And there was no one he respected more than his constituents. He respected their

hopes, their dreams, and their values. He has been relentless in his efforts to secure for them the right to live a decent middle-class life.

He has always been a staunch advocate for health care for every American, and he has been a player on every significant piece of legislation that has helped make America a more just, fair, and free country for over half a century.

It has been a privilege to walk the Halls of Congress with JOHN DINGELL.

I have never known a person who has been a better champion of the American worker, and he deserves a great deal of credit for the resurgence of the iconic American automobile industry.

The House and the American people are losing a great public servant.

But JOHN is gaining a well-deserved retirement, and I wish him many happy years with his family.

JOHN DINGELL has always been more than Mr. Chairman to me.

He has been Dean, the longest serving Member of Congress and one of the most effective in our history.

There has never been a colleague I have admired more.

Happy retirement, JOHN, and thank you for your service.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from the great State of Illinois, Mr. JOHN SHIMKUS.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I know there are a lot of Members, so I will be quick, but you have to really come down to the floor to recognize a man who has served honorably for so many years—58 years to be exact.

I would like to highlight the fact that, at 18, he joined the United States Army and rose to the rank of second lieutenant and was prepared to be part of the invasion of Japan until the bomb was dropped and the war ended. JOHN won a special election to follow his father, and he has been here ever since. He was the leading congressional supporter of organized labor, of social welfare measures, and of traditional progressive policies. He was also known as a big hunter and fisher, which we heard many, many times.

I also want to highlight that he was well-known for Dingell-grams, which were missives sent to the administration, regardless of party, that held them to account for public policies and the excesses of the executive branch. He is well-known for that.

I know he will be followed ably by his wife, Debbie, and I look forward to working with her.

May God bless you, JOHN DINGELL, and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to rise tonight and speak on behalf of my friend and colleague—the Dean of the House of Representatives—JOHN DINGELL. A proud son of Michigan, JOHN DINGELL has dedicated his life to helping those on society's margins and improving quality of life for all Americans.

While he is the longest serving member of the House, he is also one of the most accomplished members in its history.

It would be impossible to list all of JOHN DINGELL's accomplishments in the time we're allotted tonight. But make no mistake—JOHN DINGELL has played a role in every major legislative victory over the last sixty years. Throughout his time in Congress, he has been a champion for the American worker, for a clean environment, for health care, for civil rights, for consumers.

When I arrived in the House, I received a seat on the Public Works and Transportation Committee as my freshman assignment. However, I soon realized that my interests and principles were outside the scope of that particular committee. One day, I passed 2123 Rayburn and sat down to watch a hearing of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

For the first time, I saw firsthand our Committee at work. And, for the first time, I saw JOHN DINGELL in action. He filled the whole room. You couldn't miss him. That day changed everything. What I quickly realized was that the Energy and Commerce Committee had the ability to make improvements in the lives of everyday Americans. And JOHN DINGELL was leading the way.

I have had the privilege to learn so much from JOHN ever since I started on the Energy and Commerce Committee. A quarter century later, I am still humbled by the work that we do in 2123—now known fondly, and rightly so, as the JOHN DINGELL Room. And I can only hope to one day live up to the example set by a titan like JOHN DINGELL.

A few weeks ago, our new colleague, Debbie Dingell, said that she could never fill the shoes of JOHN DINGELL—and I feel the same way. When people think of the Energy and Commerce Committee, they cannot help but think of JOHN DINGELL. It is my own hope, that as I step into the committee's leadership I will be able to accomplish a small fraction of what JOHN had achieved. His commitment, charisma and charm were the hallmarks of his leadership when he sat at the committee's helm.

More importantly, he will be remembered for all he accomplished on behalf of the American people. Though the 114th Congress will be difficult for so many of us, who have served by your side, we are all so thrilled that your wife Debbie will take up the mantle. For those of us who have known her we know that there is no one more able and ready to carry on your legacy—the people of Michigan's 12th will continue to be well served. While you may be retiring, we know that you aren't going away. I know that for so many of us who have called you a mentor and a friend we will still be able to call on your sage advice and wisdom.

Congratulations on your many accomplishments and service in this great body. It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve alongside you.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, JOHN DINGELL is a legend in the Congress and a national treasure.

As the Dean of the House of Representatives, Congressman DINGELL will be retiring at the end of the 113th Congress, and his body of legislative achievements will continue to be experienced by every American for generations to come.

From protecting the environment, to promoting civil and worker rights, Congressman

DINGELL's legislative hand shaped it. He famously introduced health care reform legislation in 1955 and in every Congress since then to provide affordable, accessible care for every American. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, the 1965 Medicare Act, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments, the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, and the 2011 FDA Food Safety Modernization Act were all championed by Congressman DINGELL.

His meritorious contributions to society span his time serving in Congress and in the U.S. Army, where at the age of 18 he had orders to take part in the first wave of the planned invasion of Japan in 1945. Congressman DINGELL is the longest serving Member of the House, and he is one of two World War II veterans still serving in Congress. President Obama recently awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.

I recall so well the first time I walked into the Energy and Commerce Committee hearing room. It was 1995 and my eyes immediately went to an enormous picture of the Earth hanging on the wall. I asked Chairman DINGELL about the picture and his response has inspired and guided my legislative work because he said the painting represented the jurisdictions of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The Committee has the broadest jurisdictions which reach into the daily lives of millions of Americans. Those jurisdictions include health care, commerce, trade, manufacturing, energy and the environment, technology, communications and consumer protection. It is a reminder for members of the Committee to serve our constituents by fighting for meaningful and lasting opportunity. And it is a reminder that our job at the Committee has the most potential to create lasting impact.

Congressman DINGELL's service and legislation is unmatched in the history of our country and it has been a great honor to serve with him. I wish him and Debbie my full wishes for every blessing.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible service of the Dean of the House of Representatives, JOHN DINGELL.

In his 59 years in the House, JOHN DINGELL has experienced dizzying twists in national politics and turns in world events. And through it all, he succeeded in building a consistent record of achievements true to his core principle of social justice.

If you rely on Medicare—or plan to in your retirement—you can thank JOHN DINGELL. After fighting for its creation, he was the one presiding over the House for its historic passage in 1965.

If you've benefited from the Affordable Care Act, you can thank JOHN DINGELL for his pivotal role in passing this landmark legislation, and for continuing his father's fight to make affordable health care available to all Americans.

If you've benefitted from a safe workplace or fair pay, you can thank JOHN DINGELL for being a champion of the American worker and a tireless advocate for policies to help our businesses create jobs and our middle class get ahead.

And if you simply enjoy outdoor recreation and the ability to breathe clean air and drink

clean water, you can thank JOHN DINGELL for his vision. He brought Republicans and Democrats together to pass legislation that protects our environment.

On a personal note, I want to thank JOHN DINGELL for his wisdom and good counsel over the years. His guidance and effort were essential to passing the DISCLOSE Act in the House in 2010. That bill would have required groups spending millions of dollars on political campaign ads to disclose to voters who is bankrolling them. Unfortunately, the bill failed by one vote in a filibuster in the Senate. If JOHN DINGELL had been in the Senate, he would have gotten it passed.

Thank you JOHN DINGELL for all that you've done for our country.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, the life and career of the Dean of the House, JOHN DINGELL has been remarkable and historic.

John has been a friend . . . colleague . . . and a true leader in Congress.

During his nearly 60 years serving in the House . . . JOHN has served with passion and integrity. His commitment to public service and deep understanding of this institution has been unmatched.

JOHN has shaped policies that have improved the lives of countless Americans. From backing landmark Civil Rights legislation, to ensuring our environment is protected by authoring the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.

Most significantly, JOHN has never given up on the fight for affordable, quality health care for all Americans. Early in his career, he helped to pass Medicare, and achieved what he set out to accomplish with passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010.

There is no question that his work here will have a lasting impact on Congress . . . and this country . . . for generations to come.

It has been an honor to serve with JOHN on the Energy & Commerce Committee . . . where I have had the privilege to work with him on a number of issues, including helping to spur clean energy manufacturing jobs in this country; and helping American small businesses export their clean energy products and services abroad.

I thank him for his service and his friendship. JOHN, I wish you nothing but the best in your next adventure. You will be truly missed in this body.

I also look forward to working with your wife, Congresswoman Elect Debbie Dingell, in the coming years on important issues facing our country.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest legislators of recent decades, JOHN DINGELL, who will retire at the end of the 113th Congress.

JOHN DINGELL has diligently served the people of Michigan's 12th district and our nation for nearly 60 years.

JOHN is recognized as the Dean of the House and the longest-serving Member of Congress in our nation's history, but it's not his longevity that has made him so special—it's the impact that his legislative accomplishments have had on our society.

Through his service in Congress, he has crafted a legislative legacy that I believe to be unparalleled in its scope and its importance.

JOHN developed his reputation as a legislative giant with years of hard work, persistence, and shrewd coalition-building.

Throughout his tenure, he has been at the forefront of passing groundbreaking, common-sense legislation.

Most notably, JOHN has been a strong, tireless leader in Congress in enacting important civil rights laws.

Not only does this includes his work on the Civil Rights Act, but also his work to renew the Voting Rights Act and pass the Employment Nondiscrimination Act.

This type of diligent persistence and strong leadership is something every one of us can learn from going forward.

JOHN served for many years as Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where he drafted landmark legislation and conducted painstaking oversight of the federal agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction.

This includes championing environmental protection—from the groundbreaking legislation of the 1970s to the revolutionary Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to fighting in recent years against efforts to roll back the progress that we've made.

His passion for the environment and the outdoors is unmatched, and his accomplishments reflect his deep determination to make America a better place.

Impressively, along with the issues I've already mentioned, he has had a tremendous impact on policies as varied as consumer protection and health care.

Few Members of Congress have done as much to improve Americans' lives as JOHN DINGELL, and we can't thank him enough for his service.

JOHN's record of public service will be hard to match.

As a youth, JOHN served as a Congressional page.

After serving our country in the Army in World War II, JOHN served as a county assistant prosecutor before succeeding his father in Congress in 1955.

Since then, he has served 29 remarkably productive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I am proud to call JOHN DINGELL a good friend and respected colleague.

It has been an honor working with him on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

He has been a great mentor, a gifted leader, a skilled policy-maker, and a dedicated public servant.

I wish JOHN, his wife Debbie, and the entire Dingell family all of the best.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the congressional career of our colleague, the Dean of the House, JOHN DINGELL. As the longest-serving member of Congress ever, it is hard to imagine our nation, this Congress, and the Energy and Commerce Committee without him as he retires at the end of the 113th Congress. I am happy that he is leaving on his own terms and I wish him every happiness as he moves onto the next phase of his life as a congressional spouse.

I am just so honored to be here to celebrate and honor somebody I call a friend—JOHN DINGELL.

Over my time in the House of Representatives, I have noticed that everyone who talks about JOHN DINGELL says my friend, my chairman, my colleague, my mentor, someone I look up to, and someone I respect. I would just like to say that I can't really change those words because they echo my own sentiments.

I was not yet born when JOHN DINGELL was first sworn into the House on December 13, 1955. It was about two and a half years before I entered the world. When he took that courageous vote in support of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and civil rights, I was six-years-old. I recall at the time living here in the Washington metropolitan area that my father and mother used to bring us to this Capitol almost every Sunday after church. They would bring us and we would run up and down the east front of the Capitol. We would picnic on the west front of the Capitol.

I am thinking today how wonderful it is to know there was someone who was in this chamber who so valued this institution and who, even when I was a six-year old, JOHN DINGELL was working to protect my rights. When I think about that, I think of the need to create a formula for the VRA that the Supreme Court can support that institutes the way that we protect our voting rights in section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Almost none of us, including JOHN LEWIS, would be here had JOHN DINGELL not had the courage to take that vote in 1964.

So, it's such an honor to serve with him and to know that while that may have been the battle in 1964, he remains fully prepared to engage in the battle here in 2014. It is also an honor that we all have the great privilege of being able to serve with JOHN DINGELL.

I believe there is hardly anything that impacts our modern day laws that we can't attribute to the great hard work and public service of JOHN DINGELL. The fact that I got up this morning and turned on a faucet and ran a glass of water and was able to drink it and know that it was clean, was about JOHN DINGELL. That I walked outside today and knew that I could breathe air that was okay—we still have work to do—but to know that that clean air, and the cleaner we make our air, is attributed to JOHN DINGELL.

I think back to my grandmother who came to live with us at a point when she was aging—and it was actually just prior to the enactment of Medicare—and how different families' lives are now because of the protections that they have for health care as they age and are disabled. Those things are attributable to the great work, the legislative legacy, and the service of JOHN DINGELL.

When I first came into Congress, I won a primary election against an incumbent member. One day JOHN DINGELL pulled me aside in the cloak room and he said, "Come sit down, I want to talk to you, I want to get to know you." And I was, frankly, afraid of him. I knew his history, I had watched him Chair several Energy and Commerce hearings, and I knew that he was a great friend of my predecessor in this chamber.

I sat down and I talked to him, and what I gained from JOHN DINGELL was the kind of honor and dedication that he has, and reverence that he has, for this institution. It is unlike any that we see, and we learn from that. So we talked, and we became friends.

Then a funny thing happened. Barack Obama was elected President of the United

States, and his inauguration was about to occur. It is another reminder that JOHN DINGELL's almost 59 years of service—that anniversary will occur this Saturday—are about this amazing legislative work, but it is also about the children, women, men, and families of his district.

The Marching Chiefs of Wyandotte Roosevelt High School in Mr. Dingell's congressional district were invited to play in the 2009 inaugural parade for President Obama. Somehow or another, they booked a hotel in Hershey, Pennsylvania, that was approximately 130 miles and a couple of hours away from Washington, DC. Those students and their chaperones would have had to get up at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning to get to the inaugural staging area on time. I have the honor of representing a congressional district just outside of Washington, DC, in Maryland. JOHN DINGELL reached out to me and he told me this story, and I said, Well, maybe we can figure out something.

We found a willing partner in Wise Junior High School in Prince George's County, Maryland, where they could stay in the gym. The parent-teacher organization, the staff, and the students welcomed those students from Michigan that they didn't know at all into their high school. They fed them and provided sleeping bags, blankets, and even an ironing board. So, the Marching Chiefs were able to actually get to the inaugural parade much easier and on time.

Those students were so grateful to JOHN DINGELL. What I saw in this great legislator is that the people of his district really did come first and he looked out for them, and they knew that he looked out for them. I thought that that is the kind of Member of Congress that I want to be.

JOHN DINGELL and I have been locked at the hand and the hip ever since. In 2011, I was scheduled to speak at a Washtenaw County, Michigan, Democratic Club dinner. I flew into the Detroit Metropolitan Airport and as I walked through the terminal, the Wyandotte Roosevelt High School Marching Band started to play. Unbeknownst to me, JOHN DINGELL had coordinated with the school as a surprise thank you.

I think there are so many of us who serve in this institution who really do value the message that JOHN DINGELL has given us about the need to work together and to preserve and protect our democracy by working in a way that gives value and service to all of our communities and to this great nation. So for that, I want to thank JOHN DINGELL for being such an important part of this institution and important part of the way I have learned to become a Member of Congress.

Finally, I want to say a word about JOHN DINGELL's efforts on health care. As many of my colleagues know, JOHN DINGELL, like his father before him, has introduced a universal health care bill at the beginning of each new Congress. Before I came to the Congress, I had an experience of not having had health care and getting very sick, which required a trip to the emergency room. I ended up having a lot of bills that I couldn't pay because I didn't have health insurance. When we began to consider what is today known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it was JOHN DINGELL sitting as speaker pro tempore who gavelled in the House with the gavel that he used for the passage of Medicare.

Then during the course of the debate on the ACA, I had the honor of presiding as speaker pro tempore and there was one moment that JOHN DINGELL was speaking on the floor about his father's experience and about his experience working on health care. I will never forget that moment because for me it was what we do as legislators, but it also felt very personal. It felt so wonderful to know that in JOHN DINGELL's service, he has never stopped for a single day of those 59 years to make sure that millions of Americans like me could have health care that was quality, affordable, and accessible. So I thank him very much for his service, and I am so honored to have had the opportunity over these past seven years to serve with him and to learn from him.

JOHN DINGELL's retirement will leave a void in this House that cannot be filled. I wish him, his wife Debbie, his children Chris, Jennifer, John, and Jeanne, and his grandchildren continued success, happiness, and hopefully some well-earned rest. I know they have been of tremendous support to him in his service to this House and our nation. He leaves behind a legacy of service that others can and should aspire to.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues to pay tribute to the distinguished member of the Michigan Delegation: the Honorable JOHN DINGELL, as we mark the end of his long and dedicated service to this body and, more importantly, to the constituents of Michigan's 16th, 15th, and 12th Congressional Districts.

However, Mr. DINGELL's service to this country dates back well before he began his Congressional career in 1955. At the age of 18, he enlisted as an infantryman for the U.S. Army during World War II. He entered the military as a Private and was discharged as a Second Lieutenant while serving in the Panama Canal Zone. For his service defending our country, he received a medal presented by Oscar winning actor Tom Hanks as part of the "Salute to the Citizen Soldier" in 2004.

After serving in the Army, Mr. DINGELL was elected to fill the seat and the shoes of his father, who passed away while still in office. Together, he and his father have served the citizens of Southeast Michigan for well over 80 years. Blazing his own path, Mr. DINGELL has personally impacted every major piece of legislation for over half a century. Even though we come from different political parties, we can and do agree on many issues that concern the people of Michigan. As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, or its Ranking Member, he has always pushed for solutions to the problems Americans face. Impressive in both stature and tenacity, Mr. DINGELL has lent his life to public service. It has truly been an honor to serve alongside such an outspoken advocate for not only his constituents, but the state and country as well. And I must add that the dignity and respect he has shown his colleagues—and including this colleague—even as a brand new Member of Congress—is a testament to the respect he has for his fellow Members and this institution.

Mr. Speaker, the good citizens of Michigan's 12th district and colleagues on both sides of the aisle are all better for Mr. DINGELL's long and steady tenure in the House of Representatives. I congratulate him again on his remarkable career and join my colleagues today in paying tribute to the gentleman from Trenton, the Honorable JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to honor a great legislator, a consummate public servant, and a man whose legacy will leave an indelible mark on this institution and every American he served during his 59 years in the House of Representatives. As the Dean of the House, JOHN DINGELL holds the distinction of being the longest serving member in the history of Congress. However, it's not the length of his tenure that will earn him a place in the history books, but his many accomplishments that have improved the health of our entire nation and its citizens.

JOHN DINGELL presided over this chamber during passage of Medicare in 1965, just one of the laws he shaped over the course of his distinguished career. He helped write the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. He has fought diligently to protect Social Security, a program his father helped create, and he was a champion of the Affordable Care Act following years of advocacy on his own part to create an accessible and affordable system of universal health care.

Those of us who have been lucky enough to serve with Representative DINGELL will remember him as a man of unparalleled fortitude and passion, tempered with a sense of respect for his fellow colleagues and the legislative process, who raised the overall tenor of discourse and debate in the House of Representatives. Although we are extremely sad to see his service in this chamber come to an end, his contributions will continue to impact our country for years to come, and the DINGELL name will continue to grace the halls of Congress through his wife, Debbie, who will carry the mantle of public service on behalf of Michigan's 15th District.

Representative DINGELL, on behalf of a grateful country, I thank you for your service to this Congress and to our nation.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, others on the floor are recounting Representative JOHN DINGELL, JR.'s historic legislative record, his breathtaking parliamentary skills, and his powerful advocacy. I won't repeat all of that here.

But I would like to say something about my good friend, JOHN DINGELL, JR., and recount an event that shows a great man in the making. On December 8, 1941, soon after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered his speech saying that December 7th is a day that will live in infamy, the House briefly recessed and then reconvened to debate and declare war on Japan.

As I understand it, it was the job of a 15 year-old page, JOHN DINGELL, JR., to go up to the press gallery to tell Fulton Lewis of the Mutual Broadcasting System to turn off the microphones now that the House was going back into session because back then there was no audio recording of Congressional activities.

Instead JOHN told the famous newscaster to leave the microphone on and the tape running. The world now has the recording of that House debate and declaration of war. Here we see JOHN DINGELL, JR. already with a sense of history and an understanding of the importance of Congressional action.

JOHN, who knew that my father was serving in Congress at the same time as his father, befriended me early when I arrived in this Chamber, has shown me the warmest friendship and wisest counsel. For that I am most grateful and full of admiration.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Missouri). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. I don't know if he knows, but we are going to be honoring him tomorrow night.

Mr. WAXMAN. Thank you very much, Congressman PALLONE, for recognizing me and for acknowledging the fact that I am the ranking member at the present time, but, of course, you will now take on that job very ably, I am sure, and both of us will follow in the tradition of JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. Speaker, it is so appropriate that the room where the Energy and Commerce Committee meets is now known as the "JOHN DINGELL Room." JOHN DINGELL has been the leader of that committee and a leader in the Congress longer than anybody else has served in either the Senate or in the House; yet, what I want to say is from my own personal perspective.

I have served on that committee for 40 years, and I have learned more from JOHN DINGELL than I have from anybody else I have served with as a colleague. There were times when we had disagreements, and we argued them out and then resolved them and compromised on them; but most of the time, he was a stalwart defender of the interests of the working people of this country, a protector of the environment, a person who led the efforts for civil rights, a man who cared about people and understood that government had a very important role to play in people's lives.

From his father, who was active in the New Deal, under President Franklin Roosevelt, who led this Nation to use the government in a positive way—to help people who had nowhere else to turn—JOHN DINGELL carried on that tradition. It is the Liberal-Progressive tradition, and I associate myself with it.

I learned everything I knew as a member of the committee—and I learned everything I knew as a potential chairman and as a short-term chairman—from JOHN DINGELL. He is a Member's Member, and he is going to go down in the history books as one of the outstanding Members of Congress and leaders and chairmen of the oldest committee in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I know we don't have a lot of time, so I just want to say to JOHN DINGELL:

I wish you all the best, and I know you will whisper to Debbie, if she has any questions, the right course to take. Of course, she has been with you long enough that she probably, by this time,

will know what to do on her own. God bless you, JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), who himself has been the ranking member of two committees.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, one of my distinct pleasures in serving for 38 years in this body has been to work with the dean of the House, Mr. JOHN DINGELL. Throughout our almost four decades of serving the people of our respective districts and those of our Nation, my respect and sincere appreciation for this son of Michigan has only grown each and every day.

Few, if any, who have served here in the people's House over the last nearly 60 years would have a different view of the worth and of the value of JOHN DINGELL's contributions to the day-to-day work of this distinguished body. In fact, Representative DINGELL's vast legacy will assuredly be the legions of Members and staff who have learned so many lasting lessons of leadership under JOHN's tutelage. Basic, fundamental, timeless lessons on how to get the people's business done were always at the ready for any Member to partake in and adopt for their own future use. All of us can remember times when Big John felt it appropriate, timely, and beneficial to just gently impose one of his lessons on Members, even on this body as a whole, if he felt it would move our country forward.

First and foremost, JOHN DINGELL has always valued good, old-fashioned trust. He sees a person's word as his bond—a bond that never shifts even in the strongest political winds. In JOHN's playbook, loyalty, particularly loyalty to principles, is a powerful force that can move the entire country forward. He insists on one other useful attribute for success—time-tested hard work. One must put in the time to do the hard work, the homework, with great attention to the details, ensuring that every T is crossed and that every I is dotted.

These virtues exercised by my friend, whether by his hand's wielding the gavel or in his sizable arm's embracing your future in the back of the House Chamber, he has served our Nation productively. Upon this virtuous foundation, many compromises have been struck to forge stable vehicles to serve the people, their environment, their health, and their livelihoods. A champion of the American worker, of the autoworker, and of our Nation's coal miner, JOHN DINGELL fully appreciates the role that our government can and should play in supporting the breadwinners in every American family.

From the moment JOHN DINGELL came here to the moment he leaves and well beyond, these tenets are the legacy that will always burn brightly in my mind as well as warm my heart. Had I but served a single term with JOHN DINGELL, I would have counted many blessings because of it. Multiplied 29 times, suffice it to say, the entire Nation can itself count many